

**LEGISLATIVE SERVICES AGENCY  
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**FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT**

**LS 7473**

**BILL NUMBER:** HB 1527

**NOTE PREPARED:** Jan 13, 2013

**BILL AMENDED:**

**SUBJECT:** Utility Bills for Tenant Occupied Property.

**FIRST AUTHOR:** Rep. Kersey

**FIRST SPONSOR:**

**BILL STATUS:** As Introduced

**FUNDS AFFECTED:**      **GENERAL**  
                                 **DEDICATED**  
                                 **FEDERAL**

**IMPACT:** No Fiscal Impact

**Summary of Legislation:** The bill provides that if at any time before or after an electric, a natural gas, or a sewer utility (utility) establishes utility service for tenant occupied real property, either the property owner or the tenant submits to the utility a: (1) written notice; or (2) rental agreement, lease, or contract; that identifies the tenant and indicates that the tenant is responsible for paying utility fees for the property, the utility shall establish or continue utility service to the property in the name of the tenant and shall ensure that the utility's account or other customer or billing records for the property are in the name of the tenant.

The bill provides that a water utility shall provide written notice to the owner of tenant occupied real property if any of the following occur: (1) Water service is terminated by the water utility for nonpayment of water fees. (2) Water fees assessed for the property are more than 60 days delinquent. (3) Water fees assessed for the property remain unpaid and either: (A) the tenant has requested the termination of water service to the property; or (B) the water utility has information that the property has been abandoned by, or is no longer occupied by, the tenant who occupied the property at the time the outstanding fees were assessed.

**Effective Date:** July 1, 2013.

**Explanation of State Expenditures:**

**Explanation of State Revenues:**

**Explanation of Local Expenditures:**

**Explanation of Local Revenues:**

**State Agencies Affected:**

**Local Agencies Affected:** Municipal Owned Utilities.

**Information Sources:**

**Fiscal Analyst:** Randhir Jha, 232-9556.